GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1035
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
INTEGRATED WASTE LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) failed during the decade 1991-2001; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details of the projects taken up, their estimated cost, the amount of funds sanctioned, the projects completed and those closed and those remaining incomplete?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): The Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) has beenunder implementation since 1989-90. The Scheme was transferred from the Ministry of Environment & Forests to the Ministry of Rural Development in July 1992 through creationof a separate Department of Wastelands Development, later renamed the Department ofLand Resources, which is responsible for the development of non-forest wastelands. From 1st April, 1995, the scheme is being implemented on watershed basis in accordance with the Guidelines for Watershed Development.

The projects under IWDP are generally sanctioned to development Blocks withpredominance of public wastelands and areas not covered under the Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)Under this scheme, since July 1992, a total of 426 projects were sanctioned (128 prior to 1.4.1995 and 298 since 1.4.1995) for treatment of 34.05 lakh hectares of area upto March, 2001 involving a total cost of Rs.1500.14 crores. An amount of Rs. 544.02 crores has been released to these projects upto March, 2001.

The wastelands development projects are generally implemented over a period of 5 years. Out of the 426 projects sanctioned, 73 have been completed, 52 projects foreclosed and 296 projects are presently ongoing and are at various stages of implementation. Out of the total sanctioned projects, 148 projects were evaluated till March 2001.

The assessment made by the evaluators in various IWDP projects indicated that thesoil and moisture conservation measures and water harvesting structures taken up under the programme have created good impact in terms of improved productivity of land, increase in crop production, milk production, pasture development and employment generation and improvement in overall socio-economic status of rural people living in and around the watershed areas.